

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY-99 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

**RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT # 8**

I. Project Title: 15-Mile Reach Gage Operation & Maintenance

II. Principal Investigator: George Smith  
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III. Project Summary:

In 1990 the Recovery Program identified a need for a permanent USGS gage in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. The gage was needed to ensure that water secured under the Recovery Program is delivered to the 15-Mile Reach. The gage has also been useful in providing a basis for refining flow recommendations and serving as a control for relating habitat studies to flow. The gage was installed during the summer of 1991 and became operational October 1, 1991. Annual gage operation and maintenance are provided by the U. S. Geological Survey. The gage is operated under cooperative agreement 970-490-7297 between the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the Geological Survey with matching Section 7 funding managed by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The gage was very helpful in 1999 in the managing of releases from Ruedi, Green Mountain, and Wolford Reservoirs to augment flows in the 15-Mile Reach.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial Year - 1990, Final Year - Ongoing

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: **Colorado River Action Plan, I.A.#.c.(3).**  
Deliver flow to the 15-Mile Reach.

VI. Accomplishments:

The USGS operates and maintains the gage as specified in their Cooperative Agreement with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. USGS produces daily flow and temperature records, which will be published in the annual Water Resource paper for Colorado. Data is also available on the Colorado Watertalk System, which can be accessed by dialing 303/831-7135 (the Palisade gage is located in Division 5, Station Number 45). Interim data is available by FAX from the Grand Junction USGS office, 303/245-5257. Near real-time data from the gage can also be found on the Internet @ <http://nwis-colo.cr.usgs.gov>.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: The gage is in operation and information is available from the Internet, Watertalk, and the USGS Water Resource paper for Colorado (printed annually by USGS).

IX. FY-99 Budget:

A. Funds provided:	\$4,450
B. Funds expended:	<u>\$4,450</u>
C. Difference:	\$ 0

X. Status of Data Submissions: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: <u>George Smith</u>	<u>December 6, 1999</u>
_____ Principal Investigator	_____ Date